

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 093326

FOLLOWING REPEAT SUVA 475 ACTION SECSTATE INFO WELLINGTON
CANBERRA APR 12.

QUOTE

UNCLAS SUVA 0475

DEPT PASS ALL ACP AND EC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, EEC, FJ

SUBJECT: ACP DEPSEC GEN REMARKS PRIOR TO EEC/ACP MEETING

1. IN FIJI TIMES INTERVIEW OF APRIL 11, ACP DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL EDWIN CARRINGTON (JAMAICA), GAVE HIS
VIEWS ON ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS WEEK'S EEC/ACP
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN SUVA, AND EXPECTATIONS OF
MEETING RESULTS. CARRINGTON'S VIEWS SUMMARIZED BELOW.
ALL STATEMENTS ARE HIS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

2. ACP WANTS TO COME OUT OF MEETINGS WITH AN ACTION
PROGRAM THAT WILL PUT SUVA ON THE MAP, JUST AS THE LOME
CONVENTION DID FOR AFRICA AND THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 093326

DID FOR THE CARIBBEAN. IT MIGHT BE CALLED THE SUVA
ACTION PROGRAM.

3. THE DISCUSSIONS IN SUVA WILL COVER TWO MAJOR AREAS,
COOPERATION AMONG THE ACP COUNTRIES AND ACP RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THE EEC. AREAS OF COOPERATION AMONG ACP COUNTRIES
MUST BE SPECIFIED, INCLUDING TRADE, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS,

INFORMATION, EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS, AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE. SOME DELEGATES CONSIDER THIS ASPECT OF THE SUVA MEETING TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EEC COUNTRIES. STUDENTS DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SENT TO BRITAIN, ACP COUNTRIES CAN ENGAGE IN MANY MORE HORIZONTAL EXCHANGES.

4. OF HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE STRENGTHENING OF ACP SECRETARIAT, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE OR STRONGLY ESTABLISHED AS IT NEEDED TO BE. OPERATING WITHOUT A GOOD SECRETARIAT IS LIKE OPERATING A BODY WITHOUT A GOOD BRAIN.

5. REGARDING SECOND MAJOR AREA OF ACP RELATIONSHIPS WITH EEC, DISCUSSIONS WILL CONCENTRATE ON REVIEW OF FUNCTIONS OF THE LOME CONVENTION WHICH CONTAINS TRADE AND AID AGREEMENTS. ACP COUNTRIES WILL LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRADE, AND FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. MOST OF THE PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT ARE CONCERNING TRADE.

6. THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE (BY THE EEC) IS A GREATER PROBLEM THAN THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF BANANAS AND SUGAR. IT IS THE ATTITUDE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY ARE NOT USED TO DEALING WITH THEM AS EQUAL PARTNERS, WORKING TOWARDS INTERDEPENDENCE AND BUILDING A NEW ORDER.

7. THE EEC LAST YEAR DID NOT NEGOTIATE IN THE PROPER SPIRIT. THIS YEAR THEY HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES BUT HAVE NOT DELIVERED. THEY HAVE TAKEN DECISIONS WHICH ARE OUTRAGEOUS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 093326

AND HOSTILE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PARTNERSHIP, AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEM OF THEIR WAY OF DEALING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE TRIED TO PREDETERMINE THE SITUATION WITHOUT CONSULTATION, BUT WE WILL WAIT TO NEGOTIATE, NO MATTER HOW LATE TALKS BEGIN. SUGAR PRICE TALKS, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY NOT BEGIN UNTIL MAY. THE EEC DOES NOT REALIZE THE EFFECT OF SUGAR ON THE LOME CONVENTION, IT TOUCHES THE CONTROL NERVE. WE KNOW THE ALL-EMBRACING IMPLICATIONS OF SUGAR, YOU CANNOT MEASURE ITS IMPACT IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

8. BANANAS AND GROUNDNUTS ARE OTHER PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. EEC COUNTRIES ARE BUYING MORE AND MORE BANANAS FROM NON-ACP COUNTRIES WHILE ACP BANANAS ARE ROTTING OR GOING FOR LOW PRICES. EEC REGULATIONS AGAINST AFLATOXIN IS LIMITING SALES OF GROUNDNUTS, AND ACP COUNTRIES BELIEVE THE STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS CAN HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED. ALSO OF CONCERN IS TRADE PREFERENCES BEING EXTENDED BY EEC COUNTRIES TO NON-ACP COUNTRIES.

9. THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS TO THE RELATIONSHIP AS WELL, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE BENEFITS OF THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION SCHEMES. THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE ACP, WHICH INCLUDE SOME OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, NEED SPECIAL MEASURES, AND THE ACP WILL TRY TO GET THE EEC TO SEE THE VALIDITY OF THIS AND SET UP A COMMITTEE TO CONTINUALLY LOOK AT THEIR SITUATION. LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THOSE ISOLATED BY DISTANCE AND WATER, WOULD ALSO DESERVE SPECIAL MEASURES.

10. FINALLY, CARRINGTON SAID THE ACP HOPED TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AS AGAINST AGRICULTURAL MARKETING. HE SAID THE ACP HAD WANTED TO COME TO THE PACIFIC, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE RATU MARA (THE PRIME MINISTER) WAS REGARDED WITH SUCH HIGH ESTEEM.
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PAGE 04 STATE 093326

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